

# Kahoe Expects Ray Spencer to Be of Help to Nationals in 1914

## KAHOE EXPECTS SPENCER TO IMPROVE NEXT SEASON

Says Petersburg Youngster Was in Poor Health When He Reported Here Last Fall—Cashon May Develop Like Overall.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

According to Scout Mike Kahoe, Ray Spencer, the young outfielder obtained from the Petersburg club of the Virginia League last fall, is coming to prove a genuine surprise the coming season.

Kahoe contends that Spencer did not show anything like his true form in the few games he played with the Nationals, and that he is a much better ball player than his performance here would indicate.

"It was not generally known that Spencer reported here in rather poor health," said Kahoe. "I look for Spencer to be a different ball player when he reports in the spring, and it is my judgment that he will be just the man Griffith needs to help out his outfield, even though he does not succeed in getting a regular position on the team.

"It is going to take a mighty high-class ball player to take Howard Shanks' place," continued Kahoe, "and don't overlook that fact. There is a youngster who has never had any breaks since he joined the Nationals, and it is just about the time that luck is coming his way. Shanks got an even break in hitting and he will be one of the most valuable fielders in the league."

It is rumored that before Cincinnati opens the season, Herrmann will be the sole owner of the club. The Cincinnati magnate is reported to have a movement on foot by which he will buy out the Fleischmann interests in the club. It is estimated that it will require about \$500,000 to do this, and that Herrmann is able to handle the deal single-handed. It is argued that absolute control of the club by Herrmann is the only salvation of baseball in the Ohio city.

Joe Tinker's threat to join the Federal League unless his club accedes to his demands at once, can be figured nothing more or less than a huge bluff. The Brooklyn club has already offered him more money in the way of salary than the Federal League could possibly afford to pay, and furthermore to sign with Brooklyn means a \$10,000 bonus which is surely a nice sum to have handed him for the mere signing of a contract.

One theory is that Tinker is particularly

anxious to get his hands on the bonus at once, and that he figures by making threats of jumping he can force the Brooklyn club to sign him at his figure of \$7,500 a year. President Ebbets, however, insists that the Brooklyn club has a legal claim on Tinker. He contends that the contract to which Cincinnati signed Tinker last year contains an option on his services for next season, which has been turned over to the Brooklyn club, and, according to legal authority, will hold good in civil courts.

Manager Griffith's decision to allow Carl Cashon to pitch in his natural way, which is an underhand delivery, recalls the experience of Overall, who was a star for the Cubs for years. Overall was originally brought from the coast by the Cincinnati club, but he was an underhand and side-arm pitcher, but Ned Hanlon who was then managing that team, tried to change him to an overhand delivery and Overall proved a failure. He was traded to Chicago, where Frank Chance allowed him to pitch as he had before he joined Cincinnati, and the result was that Overall developed into a star.

Cashon won his first game for the Nationals. It was a contest with Ed Walsh in which Cashon was very effective. He was an underhand pitcher then, but an effort was made to teach him to pitch overhand, which has not brought about desired results. Griffith is going to let him pitch in his own way next season and it would not be at all surprising if he developed into a valuable pitcher.

Until recently it was conceded that Connie Mack had the youngest infield in the major leagues, but it seems that this distinction is lost to the champions, now that Herzog has been added to the Cincinnati infield. Groh, Herzog and Dodge the Reds have four fielders whose total ages would be only ninety-three years, or an average of a trifle more than twenty-three years to a player. Should Nischoff get the place at third base the quartet would amount to being the youngest infield in the major leagues.

As Hoblitzel is only twenty-four years old, Groh twenty-one and Dodge twenty-two, the Cincinnati infield has the youngest first, second and third sacker in the majors, with Herzog, a twenty-eight-year-old shortstop, as the baby manager of the first set.

## SEEK CHANGES IN THE RESERVE RULE

Players' Demand Likely to Meet With Opposition by the Magnates.

NEW YORK, December 24.—President David Fultz of the Players' Fraternity will present a strong argument before the national commission in Cincinnati January 4 for a change in the reserve clause of the players' contracts. Base ball men say, however, that this is one feature of the players' requests which will be turned down cold. Base ball magnates who have invested all their money in the game claim that this reserve clause is the backbone of the game and an account of the peculiarity of the base ball business the reserve rule is absolutely essential.

Fultz is strong for a modification of the reserve rule, because when he was in base ball he was one of the first players to receive a contract without the reserve clause. Fultz joined the Athletics in 1910, signing a two-year contract with the reserve clause omitted. The season of 1912 was Fultz's best season as a big leaguer. He was then drawing \$3,000 a year for his services.

According to the terms of his contract, Fultz was free to sign with any club when the time limit expired and was offered a place with the Yankees by Manager Clark Griffith. That was in 1913, when the Yankees first came to the hill-top. Fultz was offered \$20,000 a year to play with New York. He went to Connie Mack and Ben Shibe and notified them of Griffith's offer. He advised them to go to New York, as the Athletics at that time were not in a position to pay him as high as \$20,000.

Fultz signed his New York contract, and he is the only player who really profited by the non-reserve rule which the American League put into effect when it made the raid on National League players. The reserve rule was promptly inserted in the American League contracts when the war with the National League was declared off.

### New Coach for Minnesota Men.

MINNEAPOLIS, December 24.—R. G. Parsons, once a pitcher in the American Association, has been engaged as a coach for the University of Minnesota base ball team, according to announcement made last night.

Parsons left the American Association to go to the Southern League. He succeeds Dennis Sullivan, who recommended Parsons for the position.

### SOCCER GAME TOMORROW.

Sons of St. George to Meet the Washington Club Here.

The Washington Soccer Club will meet the Baltimore Sons of St. George tomorrow at Rosedale playgrounds, 17th and Gales streets northeast. The kick-off will be at 2:30 sharp. This is the first game between these teams in competition for the Walton cup, in the Maryland and District of Columbia Soccer League, and is certain to be hard fought. Both teams have been putting in extra practice and each is confident of winning.

The Washington team will be selected from the following: Forwards, Longstreet, Auld, Brown, Cowan, Briggs and Parker; halfbacks, Foster, Nelson, Groom or Lackey; backs, Morton, Wright or McGinty; goal, Steadman.

### CHANCE COULD USE TINKER.

Willing to Pay Ebbets \$5,000 for His Bargain.

LOS ANGELES, December 24.—While discussing the proposed transfer of Joe Tinker from Cincinnati to Brooklyn, Frank Chance made the statement yesterday that he would give Charles Ebbets, the Brooklyn magnate, \$5,000 bonus for his bargain.

"Tinker is worth every cent of the \$25,000 that Ebbets is said to have offered for him," said Chance. "Joe is a high-class player and well worth that sum of money. I do not believe that Tinker would go to the outlaws if his demands were not met regarding the ten-thousand-dollar bonus, but he has a intense nature and there is no telling what he would do."

## GOLF VALUABLE IDEAS ABOUT PRACTICE

There can be no doubt that for any one who has the patience and determination to do it there is no better practice than taking out a dozen balls and playing them first with one club and then with another, says the World of Golf. In fact, it is really the only way that a player with a limited amount of time can hope to become proficient at the game, for an hour's diligent practice is certainly equal to two or three rounds.

It should be clearly understood that practice is not of much value unless you try your hardest every shot. It is best to walk straight in the moment you feel tired and begin to execute the strokes at all loosely. Do not play for too long with any particular club, but keep changing about and trying every conceivable stroke from a two-foot putt to the most difficult bunker problem you can set yourself.

It is easy quite unconsciously to give an excessive amount of practice to your favorite and best stroke, but it is surely far more profitable to set your mind on developing some shot at which you know you are weak. Nearly all amateurs seem to have one or two weak points, but if

they would practice at these, instead of strokes they can accomplish well, I feel sure that they would improve their play. The practical way to do this is to take the player improves he should get to know the reason of every bad shot he makes and be able to correct it. As pointed out last week on the question of putting, one of the greatest assets is to carefully observe in what respect the previous strokes were faulty.

If there is one shot in the whole game at which it is more desirable to be proficient than at any other, that shot is surely the short approach from a few yards off the green. It is so common to make a good brassie or iron shot and find one's ball just off instead of just on the green, but if the next one be laid down, but it requires a great deal of practice to become deadly at it. Some people are of opinion that the professional's superiority over the amateur is largely due to his accuracy at this particular stroke, and there is no doubt a good deal of truth in this assertion. To sum up, the writer would practice often and concentrate on each shot. STRAIGHT DRIVE.

## PERTINENT COMMENT ON HAPPENINGS IN SPORTS

BY J. ED GRILLO.

In recent years the lightweight limit of 133 pounds has almost been entirely ignored. Fighters supposed to be in this class have entered the ring weighing pounds more than the prescribed limit and yet their contests have frequently been for the championship of that class.

Joe Gans, the "old master," practically gave his life in submitting to the 133-pound limit, weighed in with fighting clothes on, imposed on him by Billy Nolan, manager of Battling Nelson, just before the fight with Nelson at Norfolk, Va. This act which ruined Gans' health and resulted in his early death, his nearest friends declare, was evidence of his intelligence or an admission of his ignorance of the true lightweight limit.

As Gans' shrewdness was never questioned, it must be considered proof that Gans recognized the legal weight for championship fights as 133 pounds ring-side. His consent to weigh in with all ring clothes on in addition was a condition not foreseen in advance and was forced on him by the Memphis politician cleverness and only a few legal minds know that the 133-pound ringside limit is the right and only one which championship fights should be fought.

On this Willie Ritchie cannot claim the lightweight honors, so he made the figure, the closest he ever has done being with Joe Rivers, when he bid 134 pounds weight in half an hour before the fight.

Eleven years ago last spring sixteen teams in the two major leagues lined up in battle array at the start of the season and 144 players told the mark that day. Of these 144 starters only ten remained in active harness last spring and the season opens that some of the old timers will think they have been hit by a cyclone.

Murphy did not try to make any trades in the deal at last base ball meeting here, because, he said, trades of this sort never amount to much. Murphy and Evers are going to make a visit to several major league managers after the New Year and will be willing to buy, sell or trade. It is stated that Murphy is disappointed in Roger Bresnahan and wants to trade him. Bresnahan took part in fourteen games last season, for which he received \$10,000, the same salary Evers received as manager.

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A Federal League magnate, who was caught in the act of talking, let loose the following in St. Louis the other day: "There are certain players in the big

leagues who for obvious reasons don't care to have it publicly known that they are ready to play with us." How often have we heard that? There has been such public-hating natures in base ball. In this line said players have been their position in the ward secrecy by writing letters to the press about their Federal offers or getting a next friend to slip it personally to some sporting writer.

Cy Morgan is going to get a Christmas present from the Cincinnati club. It is to be a check for thirty-five days' pay. Morgan performed so effectively for the Kansas City club early last season that the Reds purchased him for a cool \$10,000. When Cy reported to Cincinnati he had a very good arm and was useless to the team. The result was an investigation, and it was found that Morgan was hurt while with Kansas City, and that the officials of the latter club were aware of this fact when they made the sale.

During the controversy Morgan's salary was held up. The national commission had decided that Morgan was in no way to blame, and the Cincinnati club has been asked to pay him the thirty-five day salary for which he has made a demand.

### SHAKE-UP ON THE CUBS.

Bresnahan, Moore, Stack and Lavender Are Placed on the Market.

NEW YORK, December 24.—President Charles Murphy of the Cubs has become so jealous of New York for winning three National League pennants and monopolizing the world's series money that in his effort to get a pennant-winning team for Chicago next season he threatens to shake up his club line-up before the season opens that some of the old timers will think they have been hit by a cyclone.

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## ONLY ONE NEW COACH IN LOCAL COLLEGE BASE BALL

Coogan, Former Cornell Instructor, to Supplant Harley at Georgetown, but Other Institutions Will Have Same Systems.

BY H. C. BYRD.

There will be only one change in the coaching policy of the local college base ball teams this year. Georgetown is the institution which is to have a new instructor, all the others being willing to stand pat on the system used last season.

Georgetown was not nearly satisfied with its team of last spring, and it is having Danny Coogan, formerly of Cornell, take charge in order that it may build a permanent system. Coogan, with his seven years' experience at Cornell, is thought to be the man to accomplish that end, especially since his stay at Ithaca was marked by much success.

Charley Moran will coach Catholic University's squad. Moran has had such success with the Brooklanders that no attempt was made to look further for a mentor for the team. There is not much doubt that Moran will have very nearly as capable an aggregation as that which represented the school last spring.

Charles Swan is to coach the Gallaudet nine. Swan had one of the best teams last spring that the Kendall Greens have turned out in recent years, for which

he is given lots of credit by the youngsters in charge of athletics. The same coaching policy will be pursued at the Maryland Agricultural College as last season.

The work of three of the teams mentioned was much above the usual last season, though Georgetown fell away below its standard. The Blue and Gray failed to put out anywhere near as strong a combination as it has done in some of the best college teams in the country while it was intact.

During the last two or three weeks of the season the team went to pieces and failed to accomplish much, several of the best players being lost. Gallaudet had two pitchers above the average in that class of college ball and the rest of the team was of fair caliber. It went through a rough time, however, and the Maryland Aggies had the strongest nine in their history. The Farmers made a better record than had ever been hoped for.

It would appear from a casual glance that the teams all have good prospects for the coming season, though it is much too far away to tell a great deal definitely. Georgetown may possibly be lacking in the pitching department, Catholic University must reconstruct its infield, Gallaudet will have practically the same men back, while the Maryland Aggies are going to have a pretty hard time to fill the place of Morris, who has left school.

## TENNIS RULES SUIT AMERICAN PLAYERS

Expert Johnson Says Enforcement Will Not Hurt Correct Service.

PHILADELPHIA, December 24.—When the English Lawn Tennis Association placed itself on record in favoring a change in the rules relating to foot faults and service, and was eager to have the conditions governing the Davis cup matches changing in that matter, practice often and concentrate on each shot. STRAIGHT DRIVE.

The association proposes to submit to the International Lawn Tennis Federation meeting in March a new service regulation which is at wide divergence with the present code. The radical departure from the existing rule can be perceived, when it is understood that if the new regulation is adopted it will be necessary for the server to replace the foot raised from the ground in service behind the base line before stepping into the court instead of waiting until the foot with the raised foot once the service is completed, as is permissible under the existing code.

### Change Would Slow Up Player.

This change would have the effect of slowing up a player who followed his service with a rush for the net, and, since a large proportion of English players advocate the deep-court game, it would be less detrimental to the English game than to that of almost any other country where tennis has reached high-class status.

A number of changes in the rules governing the Davis cup play are also put forward as desirable, although England lost the international tennis trophy last July when the United States team defeated the cup defenders three matches out of five.

The English Lawn Tennis Association would allow the playing of Davis cup matches on turf or natural or artificial gritty material, which description applies to the United States team. Another proposed change would bar a player from competing for any country but the one which he represented.

### Will Have Some Say.

All of this is from the British viewpoint. As Great Britain was beaten last year for the Davis cup, it is likely the United States will have some say when conditions are dictated.

Wallace F. Johnson and William J. Clothier of this city, both of national and international repute, are regarded as two of the fairest players on the courts. Johnson particularly is almost immune from foot faults.

In discussing the subject, Mr. Johnson says: "While I believe the rules regarding service and foot faults should be rigidly enforced, it will not affect my game, as the alphabet of tennis, which I learned faithfully, taught me to keep both feet on or back of the service line until the ball is struck. A man who adheres closely to the backcourt game rarely has a foot fault called. There are, however, many men of national reputation who would suffer if the rules as are now on the statute books were rigidly enforced. Rigid conditions will in no way embarrass the man who has a faultless service."

At this time last year Josh Devore was betting a man \$1,000 that he really was Josh Devore, the left fielder of the Giants. How brooding is the silence which now hangs over Terre Haute!

## EPIPHANY JUNIORS WIN.

Beat Team From Y. M. C. A. Boys' Department by One Point.

The Epiphany Juniors' basketball team defeated a quint representing the boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. last night by a score of 9 to 8. The work of both teams was good.

Line-up and summary: Epiphany. Positions. Y. M. C. A. Marbury. Right forward. Solon Reed. Left forward. C. A. last night by a score of 9 to 8. The work of both teams was good.

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### RAMBLERS BEAT MIDGETS.

Railroad Y. M. C. A. Youngsters No Match for Heavier Opponents.

The Irish Ramblers beat the Railroad Y. M. C. A. Midgets last night by a score of 33 to 21. The Midgets were against a much heavier team, and that had a lot to do with their defeat.

Line-up and summary: Ramblers. Positions. Irish Ramblers. Mulroe. Right forward. O'Leary. Left forward. C. A. last night by a score of 9 to 8. The work of both teams was good.

### COMER FOR PRINCETON.

Young McCormick Has Mordecai Brown Teaching Him to Pitch.

CHICAGO, December 24.—In the hope of playing on the Princeton base ball team several years hence, Fowler McCormick, grandson of John D. Rockefeller and son of Harold F. McCormick of this city, is studying the art of throwing curves, during his Christmas vacation. Mordecai Brown, major league base ball pitcher, is his instructor.

Young McCormick attends school at Groton, Mass., and expects to enter Princeton. He began his training last winter and according to Brown is making fast strides in mastering curves.

### Copland's Job Assured.

NEW YORK, December 24.—All doubt as to the selection of Al Copland to train the Austrian athletes for the Olympic games of 1916 was dispelled yesterday by the receipt of a cablegram by James E. Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of the A. A. U. from the Austrian Olympic committee.

The cable stated that the selection of Copland had been ratified and he would be in entire charge of the conditioning of the Austrians for the Berlin match.

### Joe Wood Stricken After Wedding.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., December 24.—Joe Wood, the famous Smoky Joe, pitcher of Boston's Red Sox, acquired a bride Saturday and an acute case of ptomaine poisoning Monday night. Miss Laura O'Shea of Kansas City took Joe for better or for worse at Milford, Pa., in the presence of a number of relatives of both bride and bridegroom. A reception party and bridge game followed. Joe was taken for last night and is expected to die December 27, owing to Wood's illness.

### To Enter Fraternity League.

Seven fraternities at the George Washington University have signified their intention of entering the newly organized Interfraternity Basketball League. They are Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Sigma, Phi Sigma Kappa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Theta Delta Chi.



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\$2 50 colored lights.....	

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## JEFF SIMPLY HAS TO HAVE A PET AROUND THE PLACE By "Bud" Fisher

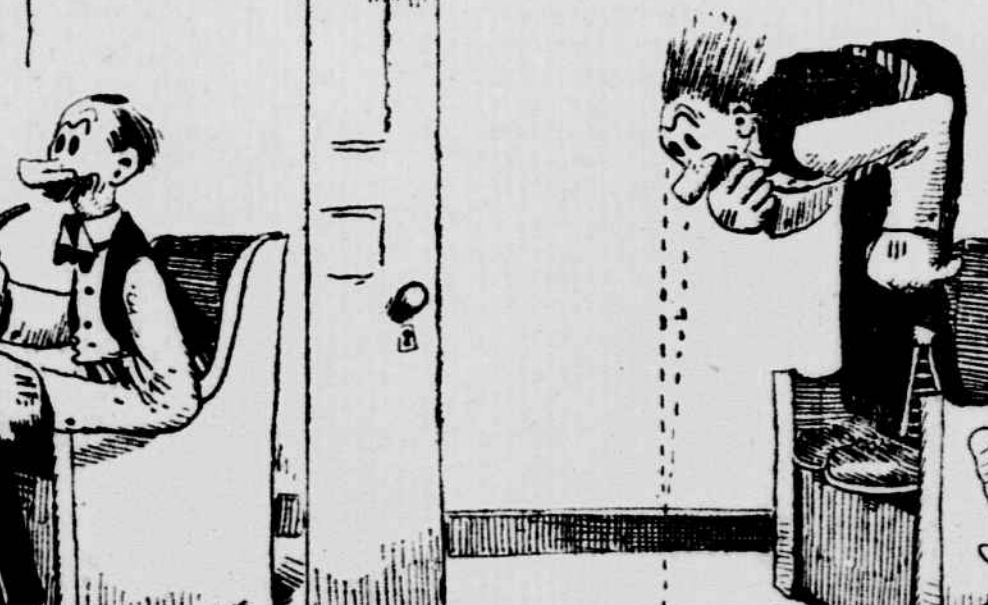
WELL, I FINALLY GOT RID OF JEFF'S SNAKE YESTERDAY. A READER WROTE A LETTER TO THE ARTIST SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO HUMOR IN A SNAKE AND IF THEY DIDN'T GET RID OF IT THAT WE'D LOSE ALL OUR READERS. SO THE ARTIST MADE JEFF KILL THE SNAKE.



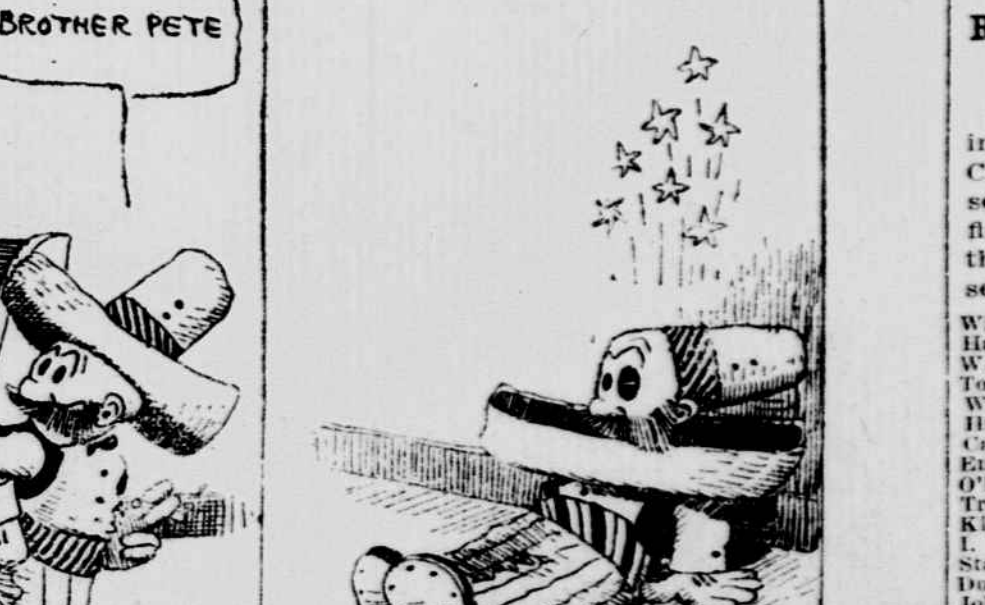
I HEAR HIM COMING NOW. I'LL BE NICE TO HIM AND CHEER HIM UP BECAUSE HE'LL BE ALL BROKEN UP ABOUT LOSING HIS PET SNAKE. FANNY.



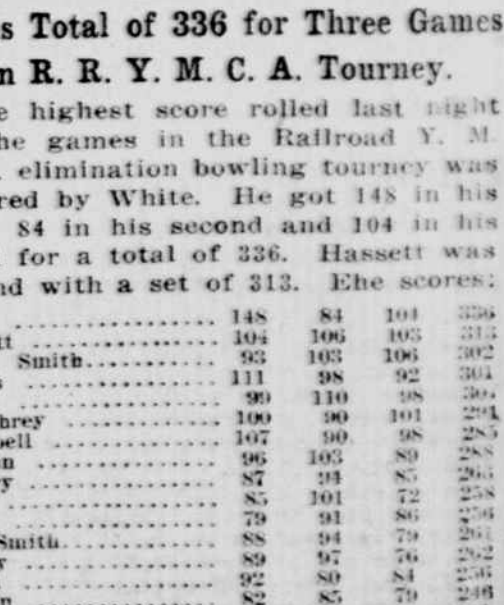
HELLO JEFF, I EXPECTED TO SEE YOU ALL BROKEN UP AFTER LOSING YOUR PET SNAKE. HELLO MUTT.



I THOUGHT YOU KILLED IT.



OH, I DID KILL FANNY, BUT THIS IS HER BROTHER PETE.



**WHITE GETS HIGH SET.**

Rolls Total of 336 for Three Games in R. R. Y. M. C. A. Tourney.

The highest score rolled last night in the games in the Railroad Y. M. C. A. elimination bowling tourney was secured by White. He got 148 in his first, 84 in his second and 104 in his third for a total of 336. Hassett was second with a set of 213. The scores:

White.....	148	84	104	336
Hassett.....	100	100	100	300
W. L. Smith.....	92	105	105	292
Harley.....	111	98	92	301
Taylor.....	90	110	108	308
Wells.....	109	90	101	290
Hummel.....	107	90	98	295
Campbell.....	102	90	98	290
Grimes.....	87	80	80	247
O'Leary.....	81	91	80	252
Trepan.....	85	101	72	258
Clinton.....	79	91	80	250
I. E. Smith.....	88	91	79	258
Stanley.....	92	80	81	253
Buckton.....	80	80	80	240
Hammel.....	82	84	78	244
Johnson.....	80	80	80	240
Dorsey.....	85	70	91	246
Grimes.....	80	80	80	240
H. W. Strieker.....	80	75	84	239
W. Williams.....	80	75	84	239
Walling.....	81	69	79	229
W. Thompson.....	72	67	80	219
Watson.....	64	67	71	202